Letters to the Editor

'Fiat Lux'

Like other householders in the area, I have recently received what seems to be a somewhat fawning appeal on behalf of a local power and light company, urging the people of this province to reserve opinion on a most vital issue.

Before receiving the appeal, to reserve an opinion was almost an easy matter. Now, however, I can think of two phrases apropos the appeal, the reason for the appeal and the general situation: "Qui s'excuse, s'accuse," and "The lady doth protest too much, methinks."

After all, the money thus spent for this appeal might have paid the bus fares for many an old-age pensioner.

V. W. WILLIAMS.

1625 Davie Street.

Digit Too Many

My letter you kindly published on the subject of a library for Oak Bay contained a typing error of a digit too many which I hasten to ask you to be good enough to allow me to correct.

It should correctly read: "Oak Bay paid $33,609.90 to Victoria last year for 112,416 books borrowed and we are now being asked to commit ourselves to a 13-year contract on that basis with nothing to show at the end of it. Allowing for increased demand the figure could reach as much as $50,000 annually by 1972, with a total expenditure for Oak Bay in the region of $600,000."

CLARENCE GOODE, FRSA, MIRE.

3190 Ripon Road.

Bad Example

Some measure of inconsistency is surely manifest when Premier Bennett announces that Attorney-General Bonner is "flying" to Ottawa to demand federal action to restore Vancouver-Victoria steamer service, when it is known that the primary cause for the suspension is lack of patronage of said steamers.

The least he can do is to travel to and from Vancouver by steamer and thus set a good example for others to follow.

One cannot see any particular emergency in the matter, inasmuch as Ottawa has clearly indicated it has no intention of interferring with the CPR plans as recently set forth.

GERALD S. REES.

2537 Fernwood Road.

Mailmen's Wages

Recently news reports have indicated that the Victoria branch of the Canadian Postal Employees' Association have been rather inactive in demands for a wage increase from our employer, the federal government.

I should like to express through the medium of your paper that these reports are absolutely unfounded. Your many readers may not realize that our many various branches, and our national office in Ottawa, have been for many months endeavoring to bring the postal employees' salary in line with private industry and comparable occupations.

Postal employees along with all other government employees are not blessed with bargaining rights, as are practically all other wage earners. This, too, is also being striven for by our elected national officers in Ottawa on our behalf.

At our recent monthly meeting we unanimously endorsed the mass meeting of the Toronto branch of postal employees. Their demands consisted of $40.00 a month increase, collective bargaining rights, maximum salary in three years (it takes seven years at present to reach maximum salary), double time for work performed on days of rest and statutory holidays, and application of the Rand formula.

It has been nearly two years since postal employees were granted an increase in salary. No one needs to be told how living costs have increased since then. Our taxes alone have increased per year to amount of our increase asked for, and more.

Postal employees are also the taxpaying public, but this fact seems lost to most people. Considerable knowledge and responsibility is demanded from postal workers, from both the public and our employer. Remuneration for what is expected is far from satisfactory.

The postal service today in Canada is of the finest in the world. This is accomplished only with the devotion and hard work of postal employees.

B. COEY,
President, Victoria Branch
Canadian Postal Employees.

Clam Bee To Help Buy New Horse

A clam digging "bee" by members of the Colwood Trail Riders will be staged at 3 p.m. today at Esquimalt Lagoon to help obtain funds to replace the horse killed under a Saanich youth in a highway accident.

Under direction of past-president Wes Goddard, at least 15 members will take bucket and shovel in hand to collect the basic ingredients for a monster clam bake.

The "bee' is being held in preparation for the Feb. 20 dance sponsored by the club to obtain $150 to buy a horse for Donald Fitzpatrick, 13, of 1590 Burnside.

Donald's horse, Bobby, a three-year-old gelding, was struck by a car and killed Jan. 8 on the Trans-Canada Highway near Portage Inlet. The young rider is still in hospital recovering from injuries suffered in the accident.

Laing to Talk

Provincial Liberal leader Arthur Laing will address the Sooke and Otter Point Liberal Association at a public meeting at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Sooke Community Hall.

Jungle Runaway

Lost in Panama jungle after running away from his father in Colombia to find his divorced mother in the U.S., Carlos Telmo Lince, Jr., 14, will see her soon in New Orleans. Brought to the U.S. he smiles at Downey, Calif., as he looks forward to being reunited with his mother for the first time in nine years.

$15,000,000 Ontario Profit

Stock Probe Urged

TORONTO (CP) — Opposition parties Friday pressed a two-pronged attack against the Ontario government in the controversy over pipeline stocks.

CCF Leader Donald MacDonald and Liberal Leader John Wintermeyer submitted resolutions in the legislature demanding the government call former mines minister Philip Kelly before the House and order a full-scale judicial inquiry.

The Liberal motion asked that natural gas safety and handling of gas franchises be included in the inquiry.

The motions came on the heels of a government report showing $15,000,000 profit was made by 40-odd persons who got Northern Ontario natural gas shares at cut-rate prices. Among them were three cabinet ministers, two prominent Progressive Conservatives, Mr. Wintermeyer, a civil servant and two municipal officials.

CCF Leader MacDonald's motion would call Mr. Kelly, one of the four promoters who made nearly $500,000 in the venture, "before the bar of the House" to explain apparently contradictory statements made by him about cabinet investments.

Mr. Kelly, 57, resigned as mines minister in July, 1957, and quit his seat in the legislature for Cochrane North six months later.

Both opposition motions are likely to die on the order paper without coming to a vote.

FRENCH CATHEDRAL

Oldest of the four great cathedrals of France, Notre Dame in Paris was completed in 1214.

Danish Ship First In Quebec Winter

QUEBEC CITY (UPI)—The 5,050-ton Danish freighter Helga Dan arrived at this snow-covered port after a 3,200-mile voyage yesterday to a noisy welcome by ship and factory whistles to become the first ocean vessel to sail up the St. Lawrence River in mid-winter.

The red-hulled vessel, designed for service in ice-filled waters, was two days late because of heavy ice and winter conditions, described as the worst in 15 years.

Courtroom Parade

Hearing Set Monday For Ex-Private Eye

Preliminary hearing of former private investigator Robert James Adrian, 5220 Cordova Bay Road, on charges of fabrication of evidence opened in city police court yesterday, and was adjourned to Monday by Magistrate William Ostler.

Reason for adjournment was to obtain evidence of a further witness, lawyer James J. Proudfoot, who was out of town.

Adrian is accused of fabricating evidence for use in divorce actions. There are also charges of perjury in connection with hearing of two divorce actions in high court here last November.

★ ★ ★

Two individuals and a Victoria firm were fined $25 and costs each when they pleaded guilty to failing to file income tax returns. Fined were Robert Barnett, 810 Linden; Bernard W. Gillespie, 406 Sherk, and Island Taxi Co. Ltd., 1312 Broad.

★ ★ ★

Suspended sentence, under bond of $500 for six months, was handed down by Magistrate Ostler to Walter Hannaka, 810 Esquimalt, who pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted theft.

Accused was nabbed by city police on private property in the industrial reserve, where he admitted he had gone to get some plumbing fixtures.

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